



To Whom It May Concern:

North Lakes Academy is a Charter School which has been serving the community of Forest Lake Minnesota since 1999. Currently the school has a middle school (grades 5-8) site at 255B NW 7th Ave in Forest Lake, MN, and an upper school (grades 9-12) site at 308 15th St SW in Forest Lake, MN.

The district is expanding to offer elementary grades, and a new facility is being constructed to house grades K-8 at 4576 232nd St N in Forest Lake, MN; it will be available for occupancy September 2019 for grades K-5 to hold classes. In total, the new building will house 585 students with over 26% eligible for free or reduced lunch.

The reason for the delay in submitting our 471 forms was due to a delay in securing external funding and narrowing the project scope for the new facility; which, did not get resolved until the end of February 2019. As soon as the building design and permit were officially approved, we posted the 470s for open bidding on both Category 1 and Category 2 items needed for the new K-8 building. We received several bids for each of the eligible items and after the required 28 days we closed the bidding and made our vendor selections based on best price and best fit to our requirements.

We hope that the FCC can provide a waiver for our 471s given that the delay was due to finalizing elements for such a large-scale project as a new school building. The supportive funding provided by the FCC through the USAC allows the students we serve to have equal access to the kinds of technology needed to compete in this global economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Higgins".

Michael Higgins  
IT Director  
North Lakes Academy  
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Forest Lake, MN 55025

**SMALL SCHOOL • BIG EDUCATION**

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